(c) the details regarding the present status of the fresh initiatives proposed to be taken to attract greater private investment power distribution; and

(d) the details of action plan finalised for 1997-98 and result achieved there under so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir. However, a news items appeared in Business Standard dated 26th September, 1997.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have appointed a single Member Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.J. Coelho. Ex-Chairman. Gujarat Electricity Board to examine the feasibility of privatesation of distribution and to suggest guidelines/legal framework for making distribution of electricity financially viable and attractive. Privatisation of distribution is one of the components of the Reform and Restructuring programmes being considered in the State of Orissa, Haryana & Rajasthan.

(d) No action plan has been finalised so far in this regard. Government of India has been supporting the initiatives taken by the State Governments in privatisation of distribution.

Inclusion of power projects of Andhra pradesh under OECF loan Package

290. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have asked the Central Electricity Authority to include two projects under the DECF loan package for 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the role envisaged for CEA in power generation development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) For 1997-98 under OECF loan package, two projects of Andhra Pradesh, namely (i) Simhadri & Vizag Transmission System (Loan amount 10629 million Yen) and (ii) Srisailam Left Bank Power Station (Loan amount 14.499 million Yen) have been negotiated.

(c) The role envisaged for CEA for power generation development is (i) To advice the State Governments, State electricity Boards, Generating companies or any other agency engaged in generation or supply of electircity on such matters as will enable State Government. Board Generating company or Agency to operate and maintain the power system under their ownership or control in an improved manner and where necessary in coordination with any other agency owning or having the control of another power system and (ii) to develop a sound adequate and uniform national power policy, formulate short-term and perspective plans for power development and coordinate the activities of planning agencies in relation to the control and utilisation of national power resources.

Power Shortage in the Country

291. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Economic Times dated 1st November, 1997 captioned "No Respite from power shortages in short term";

(b) whether it is a fact that delays in installing new power generation capacity is largely responsible for this acute shortage;